



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Ready - Set -
Return to the Classroom

ROADMAP TO READINESS
2021-2022 School Year
Update

June 2021

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Introduction

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) will return to five days of in-person teaching and learning for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be a clear focus on accelerating learning. While students will be fully in-person, Chromebooks will be provided to all students to allow for Google Classroom and other digital platforms to be utilized to promote digital literacy and to allow for flexible scheduling when needed.

For those families looking for a virtual-only program, the district will offer a limited-enrollment virtual program. To avoid concurrent teaching (where a teacher simultaneously teaches a group of in-person students and a group of virtual students), the virtual program will be a stand-alone program with a virtual platform and have teachers solely dedicated to students in the virtual program. More details about the virtual program are in the [Virtual Program](#) section below.

Schools will start as planned according to the school's [calendar](#).

- Schools on the **Early Start Calendar begin August 16, 2021** for students
- Schools on the **Traditional Start Calendar begin September 2, 2021** for students

Health and Safety Measures

Milwaukee Public Schools will follow current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), to determine mitigation strategies to be implemented. The following mitigation strategies are planned for the 2021-2022 school year, but may be updated as health guidance changes.

Masks

- Masks that cover both the mouth and nose will be required on buses and indoors, except while eating or drinking.
- Masks are not required outdoors.
- Staff and students may bring masks from home.
- Schools will have disposable masks available in case a mask is lost or damaged.



Distancing

- Physical distancing of at least three feet to the greatest extent possible in schools.

Classroom Strategies

- Continued use of HEPA filters in all classrooms and common spaces.
- Plexiglass barriers will be optional where all children are facing forward, but will be required where children are facing each other in the classroom. Plexiglass barriers have been collected and cleaned, and additional plexiglass barriers will be purchased as needed.



Cafeteria

- Cafeterias will have no capacity limits, but attention will be given to physical distancing during meal times.

Air Quality

Milwaukee Public Schools is taking active measures to ensure appropriate air quality in schools. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units will continue to supply the maximum amount of outside air the unit(s) can safely provide. The systems will continue to be run two hours before and two hours after buildings are occupied.

Milwaukee Public Schools continues to analyze HVAC systems districtwide, and MPS is exploring the use of federal funds to address any HVAC or ventilation concerns. In particular, MPS is taking the following actions:

- Mechanical consultants have been hired to perform design assessments on existing ventilation systems.
- Contractors have been hired to confirm if existing ventilation systems are operating to their full capability.
- Remediation plans will be created for any corrections needed to systems and to determine the best course of action.

Visitors

- Our buildings will be open to the public. For the ongoing health and safety of our students and staff, we will accommodate scheduled visits to our school.
- Parents and visitors should work directly with their school office to schedule visits.
- Visitors must adhere to the mask requirements.



Transportation

Milwaukee Public Schools is working with bus companies in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. Bus safety protocols will be established between MPS and bus companies. Bus capacity will be based on CDC and MHD guidance to the greatest extent possible. To ensure smooth and efficient transportation services in the fall, the following actions are being taken:

- Driver attraction and retention efforts are underway by bus companies to ensure all buses operate as planned in the fall.
- MPS will collaborate with bus companies to identify drop-off and pick-up areas.
- Schools will establish safe entry and departure procedures.
- Bus information will be sent to all families.

COVID-19 in Schools

COVID-19 cases in schools will continue to be monitored and documented. MPS nurses, working in conjunction with the Milwaukee Health Department, will continue to support accurate contact tracing. Milwaukee Public Schools will follow quarantine requirements in alignment with current CDC/MHD guidance that is based on vaccination status. Under current guidance, those who need to quarantine include:

- Unvaccinated close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case (those who were within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes).
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19.
- Individuals who show symptoms of COVID-19.

Isolation rooms will be maintained at each school. Schools will plan for flexible scheduling for students who need to quarantine. Under current MHD guidance, three percent or more of a school's population with positive COVID-19 cases would also result in the use of flexible scheduling. Communications about COVID-19 cases in schools will continue to be provided to families and staff.



COVID-19 Vaccinations

Individuals 12 years of age or older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. MPS encourages all eligible families and staff to get their COVID-19 vaccine. Health officials have relaxed certain restrictions for vaccinated individuals. MPS has implemented some of these relaxed restrictions, such as relaxed quarantine restrictions for vaccinated individuals, and continues to explore the possibility of relaxing other restrictions for vaccinated individuals.

Milwaukee Public Schools will host the following events to encourage vaccinations prior to the start of the school year:

- Back to School Health Fair at Obama SCTE on July 30
- Back to School Health Fair at Longfellow School on August 6

In addition to access to COVID-19 vaccines at the health fairs, families will have access to a variety of health services, including dental services.

COVID-19 vaccines are still widely available. Information about how to get vaccinated is available through the City of Milwaukee at milwaukee.gov/CovidVax or by calling (414) 286-6800.

COVID-19 Testing

Milwaukee Public Schools received feedback from many families and staff members regarding the surveillance (pooled) testing program implemented for the return to in-person learning this past spring. Milwaukee Public Schools also reviewed CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 testing in schools to formulate guidelines for the next school year. Milwaukee Public Schools has also been coordinating with state and local health officials regarding COVID-19 testing in the fall.

Families can expect the following in the 2021-2022 school year:

- No surveillance (pooled) testing.
- No testing requirement for school or athletic activities.
- Rapid testing may be available for symptomatic individuals who voluntarily consent to testing.

Other Health Measures

- Students should continue to practice good hygiene, such as washing their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer, covering their coughs with a tissue or their elbow, etc.
- Each building will maintain additional cleaning staff.
- Restrooms will be inspected regularly and supplies will be replenished as needed.
- Cleaning stations with spray bottles of disinfectant along with paper towels will be available.

Virtual Program

MPS will offer a full-time virtual program for children whose families prefer virtual learning. The virtual program for the 2021-2022 school year will be structured after the traditional school model and will not provide any specialty programs such as Montessori, language immersion, International Baccalaureate (IB), career and technical education (CTE), bilingual, etc. The program will serve only virtual learners, with teachers dedicated to remote learning. Classroom teachers based in schools will only teach in-school students.



The district is requesting responses from families who would like children to participate in the virtual program. Below are some important details about the MPS virtual program.

- Enrollment is limited and based on availability.
- Children will engage in full-time learning through a program that serves only virtual learners. They will not be part of a classroom at their current school, but they will remain enrolled in their current school.
- This will be a traditional program only; there will not be any specialty programs such as Montessori, language immersion, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), career and technical education (CTE), bilingual, etc.
- Responses are required from families by June 21, 2021, to be eligible for the virtual program. Late responses will not be accepted.

Families who wish to request the virtual program should fill out a form for each child using this link: mpsmke.com.com/survey.

For questions about the virtual program survey, please call (414) 475-8258.

Classroom and Schoolwide Supports

Milwaukee Public Schools will provide resources to school communities to better serve the social and emotional learning (SEL) needs of the school. Professional development will be offered for school communities to better serve the needs of all students. The resources to support our students will also be shared with the community so that they can help in meeting the needs of our school communities.

Families can expect SEL support for students, such as:

- SEL lessons will be provided in the first six weeks of school to engage students in establishing routines and building community.
- SEL supports and services will be part of core (Tier 1) instruction.
- Additional academic support will be provided for learners that require it.
- Professional development will be provided to support staff to ensure information and expectations to support students are understood.

Parent Support

Milwaukee Public Schools listened to feedback from families regarding the various aspects of this Roadmap to Readiness Update. The perspective of parents and families helped shape the thinking around the updated mitigation measures and strategies, with the dominant voice calling for clear guidelines aligned with public health guidance.

Milwaukee Public Schools will continue to offer parent support during the fall with continued communication and with flexibility in parents' interaction with the school and district.

- Parent(s) have the choice to attend parent/teacher conferences and IEP meetings virtually in the fall.
- Parent resource information will continue to be housed on the [MPS Roadmap to Readiness](#) website and offered in multiple languages.

School Operations

CLC/Safe Place/Child Care Camps

Milwaukee Public Schools will continue to offer 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) programs, Safe Place programs, and Childcare Camps as follows:

- ➔ All CLC programs will begin on the first day of school at school locations.
- ➔ Select Safe Place and Childcare Camp locations will also open on the first day of school with additional programs opening as part-time staff are hired.

Athletics

Milwaukee Public Schools is planning for a return of sports in the fall. Masks will not be required for outdoor sports. For indoor sports, masks will not be required while students are competing, but will be required while they are not competing (e.g., while sitting on the bench). MPS Athletics will continue to adhere to appropriate health guidance for sport activities.

All fall high school sports are expected to resume, which includes football, cross country, girls volleyball, girls tennis, girls golf, girls swim, boys soccer.

For elementary and middle schools, below is a listing of the sport leagues we are planning to offer during the Fall 2021 season, which runs between mid-September until November:

- ➔ Elementary: Girls basketball, coed soccer, coed volleyball, coed flag football, and coed cheerleading.
- ➔ Middle school: Coed cross country, coed flag football, girls basketball, and coed cheerleading.

Registration for fall sports is now open. Students can register in [rSchool](#).



Communications

Milwaukee Public Schools will continue to give students, families, and staff up-to-date information about the district's fall back-to-school plan. Communication materials will continue to be translated into families' preferred language.

The district uses multiple outreach tools to communicate with families, students, and staff, including email, letters, the MPS App, social media, etc. Please ensure the district has up-to-date contact information for your family.

You can stay connected with your child's school and the district through the following:

- Download the MPS App for [iOS](#) or [Android](#).
- Opt-in to receive district communications from SchoolMessenger by sending a text message to 67587 with "Y" from any mobile phone you would like to receive messages.
- Sign up for our [newsletters](#).
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).
- Regularly visit the [MPS Newsrooms](#) page where you can find messages for staff, families, and the community as well as web stories and news items!

Summer 2021

While families prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we also want to highlight the academic opportunities available during the summer through the Summer Academy, as well as other summer activities.

Summer Academy

The following are Summer Academy offerings:

- June Term (middle and high school students): June 7 through July 2.
- Elementary enrichment summer school and Extended School Year (ESY): June 22 - July 29.
- Summer school enrichment and credit recovery: July 6 - July 29.



Summer Academy program highlights include:

- In-person and virtual learning opportunities.
- Spring reopening health and safety protocols will be followed.
- Large sites utilized for appropriate distancing of students and staff.
- Breakfast and lunch provided.
- New career exploration program for middle and high school students.
- Coordination with Childcare Camps, CLCs and Safe Places for full day programming.

Summer Meal Programs

Milwaukee Public Schools will continue the Grab & Go meal locations for summer. Meals for breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Meal services are also planned for the following programs:

- 14 summer school sites
- 34 CLCs
- 22 Childcare Camps
- 5 Twilight Centers



Milwaukee Public Schools is thrilled to offer Summer Meal Options Pilot meal delivery service in the 53205, 53206 and 53233 zip codes. This pilot program will deliver meals to individual homes and bus stops in July and August 2021 for families who expressed interest in participating in the program.

Summer Enrollment Outreach

Milwaukee Public Schools continues to enroll students for the 2021-2022 school year. Each school will create a summer enrollment plan and will also host a summer open house. The Department of Student Services will canvass neighborhoods to provide enrollment assistance, and MPS will also collaborate with community partners to canvass for enrollment outreach.



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